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Agenda item 4
**Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments**

# Election of a member to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

## Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its 8th plenary meeting in 2010, held on 28 April, the Economic and Social Council elected eight members to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2011 (see Council decision 2010/201 B).

2. In a letter dated 4 April 2012, the Secretariat informed Governments that one elected member of the Permanent Forum, Helen Kaljulāte (Estonia), had resigned from her seat and requested States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Eastern Europe States to present by 6 April 2012 their nominations to fill the seat.

3. Accordingly, the Secretariat has received one nomination from the Government of Estonia. The term of office would begin on 1 May 2012 and expire on 31 December 2013.

4. Biographical information on the candidate is set out in the annex to the present note.

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## Annex

### Biographical information on a candidate for election to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

**Mrs. Viktoria Tuulas (Estonia)**

Mrs. Viktoria Tuulas is currently leading the Legal Bureau of the Consular Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia. The current focus of her activities is on gender issues with regard to the promotion of human rights, development and peace and security. She deals with issues such as violence against women and children's rights as well as the current situation of indigenous peoples through the work of Estonia on human rights and development.

**Work experience**

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| 2009-present | Consular Officer with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia. Works as an expert on consular and international private law. Involved with defending the constitutional rights of citizens, resolving questions regarding human trafficking, immigration and citizenship. |
| 2005-2009 | Consular Department of the Embassy of Estonia in Helsinki. She also worked with the Estonian School in Helsinki with a specific focus on the preservation and transfer of Estonian as a mother tongue, on the maintenance of Estonian as the "family language" and on bilingualism. The aim of the Estonian School was to keep the Estonian language and culture alive among children who have moved to Finland from Estonia. |
| 1994-1995 | Deputy Director-General of the Citizenship and Immigration Board. |